

**REMARKS**

Applicants have converted an inadvertent clerical error on page 67. As support for the correction, Applicants have provided the following explanation:

The present English specification contains the following statement on from page 66, line 21 to page 67, line 12 in respect of [2] Desulfurization reaction-rate constant (Ks):

"The rate constant of a reaction rate equation which gives the 1.3 order of reaction with respect to decrease in the sulfur content of the product oil (Sp) is determined as a desulfurization reaction rate constant (Ks). -  
- - - - Sf represents sulfur content in feedstock oil (% by weight), Sp represents sulfur content in product oil (% by weight), and LHSV represents liquid hourly space velocity (hr<sup>-1</sup>)."

This statement can be expressed by a numerical equation,

$$-dSp/dt = Ks \times Sp^{1.3}$$

and this equation leads to the following formula:

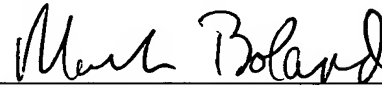
$$\text{Desulfurization reaction rate constant (Ks)} = [1/(Sp)^{(1.3-1)} - 1/(Sf)^{(1.3-1)}] \times (\text{LHSV}) \times 1/(1.3-1).$$

Accordingly, it is believed that the proposed correction is allowable as that of a clerical error.

Preliminary Amendment  
National Stage of PCT/JP2003/016197

Entry and consideration of this Amendment are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Boland", written over a horizontal line.

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